



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF G-1  
300 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0300



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

24 Feb 03

SUBJECT: Support of the Retired Community

1. Army retirees and their families are highly valued partners with our active duty and reserve components. Their rich legacy of sacrifice and service inspires today's soldiers. Many continue to serve America in a wide variety of positions both in and out of government and are a strong bridge between the Army and their communities. We must not lose touch with retirees.

2. Over the past few years, downsizing initiatives and base closures have had a dramatic effect on personnel organizations that serve the retired community. Unfortunately, at some locations, Installation Retirement Services Officer (RSO) positions have been eliminated or contracted out, or consolidated with other positions. The Installation RSO is the only individual tasked with the important responsibility of counseling active duty soldiers and their families prior to retirement and providing service to soldiers and their families after retirement. \*

\* We are the only service that does this!

3. In order to ensure that the Army continues to demonstrate its commitment to retirees, I urge your support in the following areas: (a.) Ensure that installations have a full-time RSO to implement the retirement services program, including proper Survivor Benefit Plan counseling prior to retirement. (b.) Provide local RSOs with adequate resources to accomplish their two primary missions of pre-retirement counseling and post-retirement assistance. (c.) Establish and support installation retiree councils that meet regularly with installation commanders and other senior leaders. (d.) Support annual Retiree Appreciation Days that bring together all facets of the Army community to update retirees with current information, provide local services such as health/dental screenings, and offer a series of open forums to exchange ideas for the benefit of all.

4. We cannot ignore or abandon those who served before us. Retirees will always be a distinctive, valued part of our family. This simple truth is integral to our Army values and traditions and can never be allowed to fade away.

JOHN M. LE MOYNE  
Lieutenant General, GS  
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1



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